development of promotion of tourism have been restructured and new schemes like Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects, Revival of Tourism in Jammu &' Kashmir have been introduced during the X Plan.

(b) Provision of Rs.500 crores has been made in Budget Estimates for 2004-05 for all the ongoing and new plan schemes of Ministry of Tourism.

(c) Tourism projects are identified carefully and reviewed regularly for proper implementation.

Development of religious places for tourism purposes

2212. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRI DATTAMEGHE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that religious places attract most of the tourists in India;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take a comprehensive plan to develop those cultural and religious places which can be helpful in boosting the tourism industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount earmarked for the purpose;

(e) the names of States and the religious places to be developed for attracting tourists; and

(f) by when these religious places are likely to be developed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Religious places in the country do attract a large number of pilgrims/tourists.

(b) to (f) Development of tourist/pilgrim places is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism also provides financial assistance for tourism projects identified in consultation with them. The process of identification of projects to be taken up during the current financial yearjs in progress in consultation with State Governments/U.T. Administrations.